

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An outer sheathed endoscope comprising:

a flexible insertion portion including a guide channel formed therethrough;

an outer sheath for detachably covering the flexible insertion portion;

a channel tube a tip end of which is fixed to a tip end of the outer sheath and which is passed through the outer sheath, wherein in a state that the outer sheath covers the flexible insertion portion, the channel tube is passed through the guide channel;

a locking mechanism for restricting the flexible insertion portion from escaping from the flexible insertion portion; and

a channel deformation space for allowing a part in the vicinity of a tip end part of the channel tube to be elastically deformed when a tip end part of the outer sheath is rotated about an axis in a predetermined range with respect to the tip end part of the flexible insertion portion,

wherein the locking mechanism is disengaged by rotating the tip end part of the outer sheath about the axis in the predetermined range with respect to the tip end part of the flexible insertion portion.

2. The outer sheathed endoscope according to claim 1,
wherein

in a state where the outer sheath covers the flexible
insertion portion and no load is applied to the outer sheath,
a state where the locking mechanism is engaged is maintained
by elasticity of the channel tube, and

the engagement of the locking mechanism is canceled to
enable the tip end part of the flexible insertion portion to
escape from the tip end part of the outer sheath when the tip
end part of the outer sheath is rotated about the axis in the
predetermined range with respect to the tip end part of the
flexible insertion portion by elastically deforming the
channel tube in the channel deformation space.

3. The outer sheathed endoscope according to claim 1,
wherein the locking mechanism includes an L-shaped groove
portion which is formed in an outer face of the tip end part
of the flexible insertion portion and a hook portion which is
formed on an inner face of the tip end part of the outer
sheath to be engageable with the groove portion.